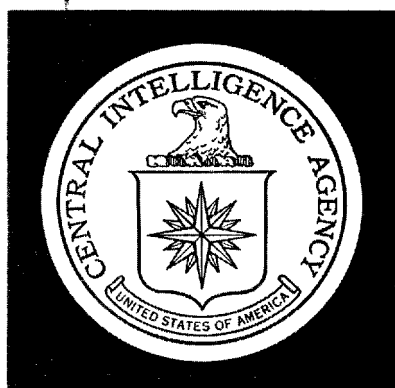


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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Vietnam

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20 June 1967

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Information as of 1600
20 June 1967

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HIGHLIGHTS

Two US operations in South Vietnam--one in Long An Province and another south of Da Nang were heavily engaged by enemy units on 19 June.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Significant enemy contacts were reported on 19 June in Long An Province to the south of Saigon and in central I Corps (Paras. 1-4). There are indications that enemy forces may have completed preparations for a major offensive in northwestern Kontum Province (Paras. 5-7).

II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:

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Phan Khac Suu and Ha Thuc Ky have officially filed their presidential candidacies (Para. 7).

III. Military Developments in North Vietnam: There is nothing of significance to report.

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IV. Other Communist Military Developments:

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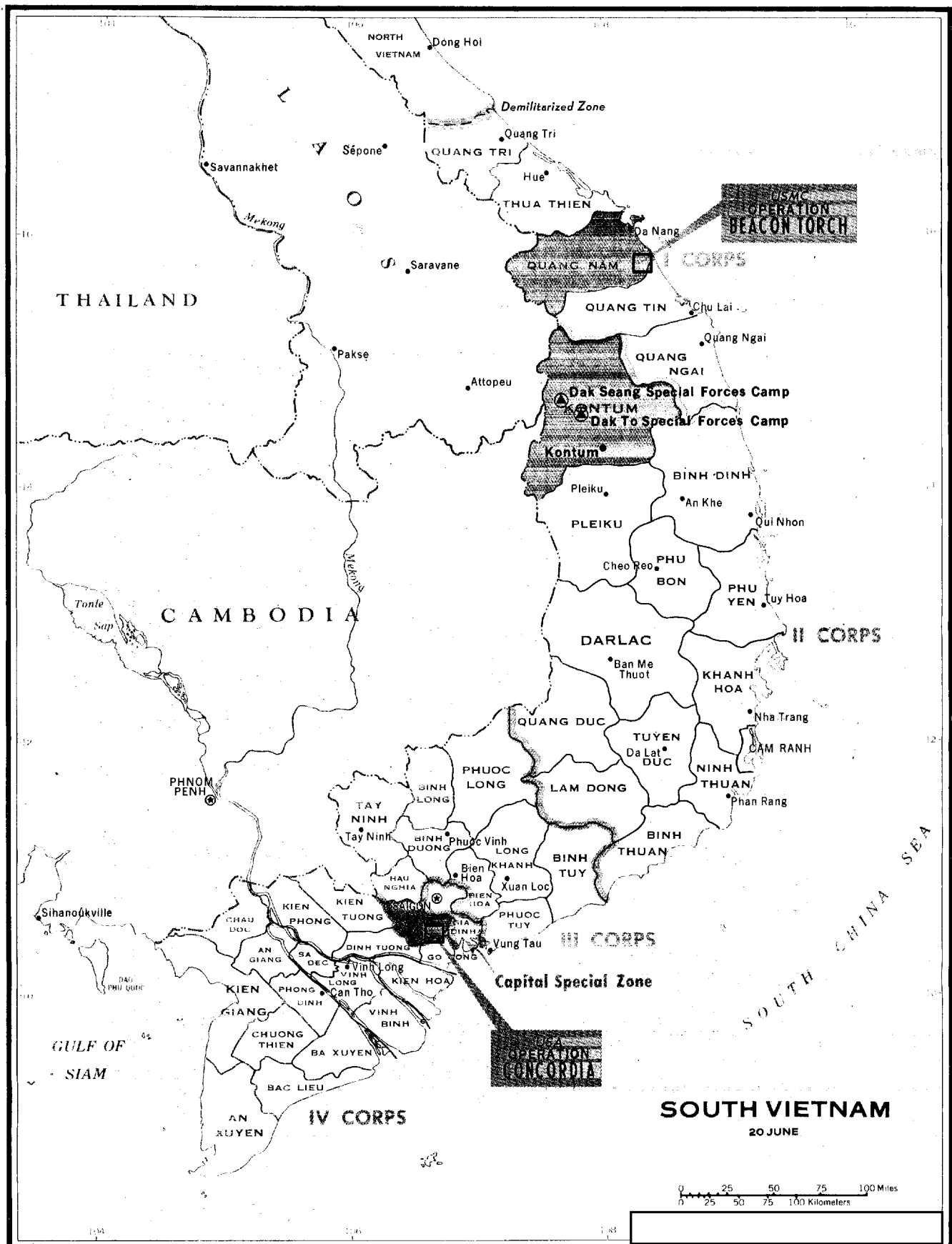
construction of the airfield at Yen Bai in northwest North Vietnam (Paras. 1-3).

V. Communist Political Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.

VI. Other Major Aspects: Truck traffic through the Laos panhandle is decreasing as the rainy season sets in, but the North Vietnamese are trying to keep some of the roads open (Paras. 1-4).

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Two significant enemy contacts were reported on 19 June to the south of Saigon and in central I Corps.

2. Updated reports of the US 9th Infantry Division's heavy contact with the enemy in Long An Province, 17 miles south of Saigon, indicate that 169 Communist soldiers have been killed. US losses were 28 killed and 126 wounded in the operation, code-named CONCORDIA.

3. Two US battalions were committed in the battle, and were supported by US Navy armored troop carrier boats, Air Force AC-47 gunships, armed helicopters, and artillery. An estimated three enemy companies were involved.

4. Meanwhile, some 28 miles southeast of Da Nang, elements of a US Marine company, supported by air strikes, reported killing 50 of the enemy during Operation BEACON TORCH. Seven Marines have been killed and 31 wounded since this operation began on 17 June. An estimated 3,800 Communist soldiers were believed to be within an 11-mile radius of the operational area.

NVA Activities in Kontum Province

5. There are indications that the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) 24th Regiment, reinforced by newly infiltrated NVA units, may have completed preparations for launching major offensive operations against a network of allied Special Forces camps in northwestern Kontum Province.

6. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] elements of the NVA 245h Regiment, together with a newly infiltrated unidentified regiment, had deployed to positions northeast of Dak To Special Forces camp in anticipation of conducting accelerated operations against Dak To and other nearby allied

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paramilitary garrisons in early summer. Since mid-May, enemy pressure on "New Life" hamlets, outposts, and reconnaissance patrols in the Dak To area has increased sharply, culminating in the shelling on 17 June of Dak To itself by Communist 120-mm. and 81/82-mm. mortar crews. The nearby Dak Saeng Special Forces camp also received heavy mortar fire on the same day.

7. In increasing the threat to allied positions in Kontum Province, the Communists' primary aim would probably be to divert allied attention from other, more strategically critical areas in the highlands, particularly western Pleiku Province. Stepped-up pressure in Kontum would also be in accordance with well-documented enemy summer campaign objectives in the western highlands, which emphasize the dispersal, tying down, and destruction of US units in an effort to prevent them from reinforcing other areas under siege, such as the northern provinces of I Corps or the coastal delta areas of II Corps.

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Suu and Ha Thuc Ky File Candidacies

7. Civilians Phan Khac Suu and Ha Thuc Ky have officially filed their presidential candidacies with the Provisional National Assembly. Suu's running mate is Dr. Phan Quang Dan. Ky's running mate is Nguyen Van Dinh, a wealthy southern Catholic mining engineer and civil servant who served in Ngo Dinh Diem's cabinet from 1961 to 1963. Dinh apparently has no popular following, but will provide regional balance for Ky, who is from central Vietnam.

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III. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH VIETNAM

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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IV. OTHER COMMUNIST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. There are tentative reports that the air-field [redacted]

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[redacted] in northwest North Vietnam is near the final stages of construction. [redacted]

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[redacted] the air-field at Yen Bai will have a 7,800- by 125-foot runway when completed. A parallel 5,650- by 110-foot taxiway, five connecting taxiways, and a parking apron [redacted]

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[redacted]

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2. Although a US pilot reported on 18 June that the airfield appeared to be serviceable, it is doubtful that this airfield is yet ready for use.

[redacted]

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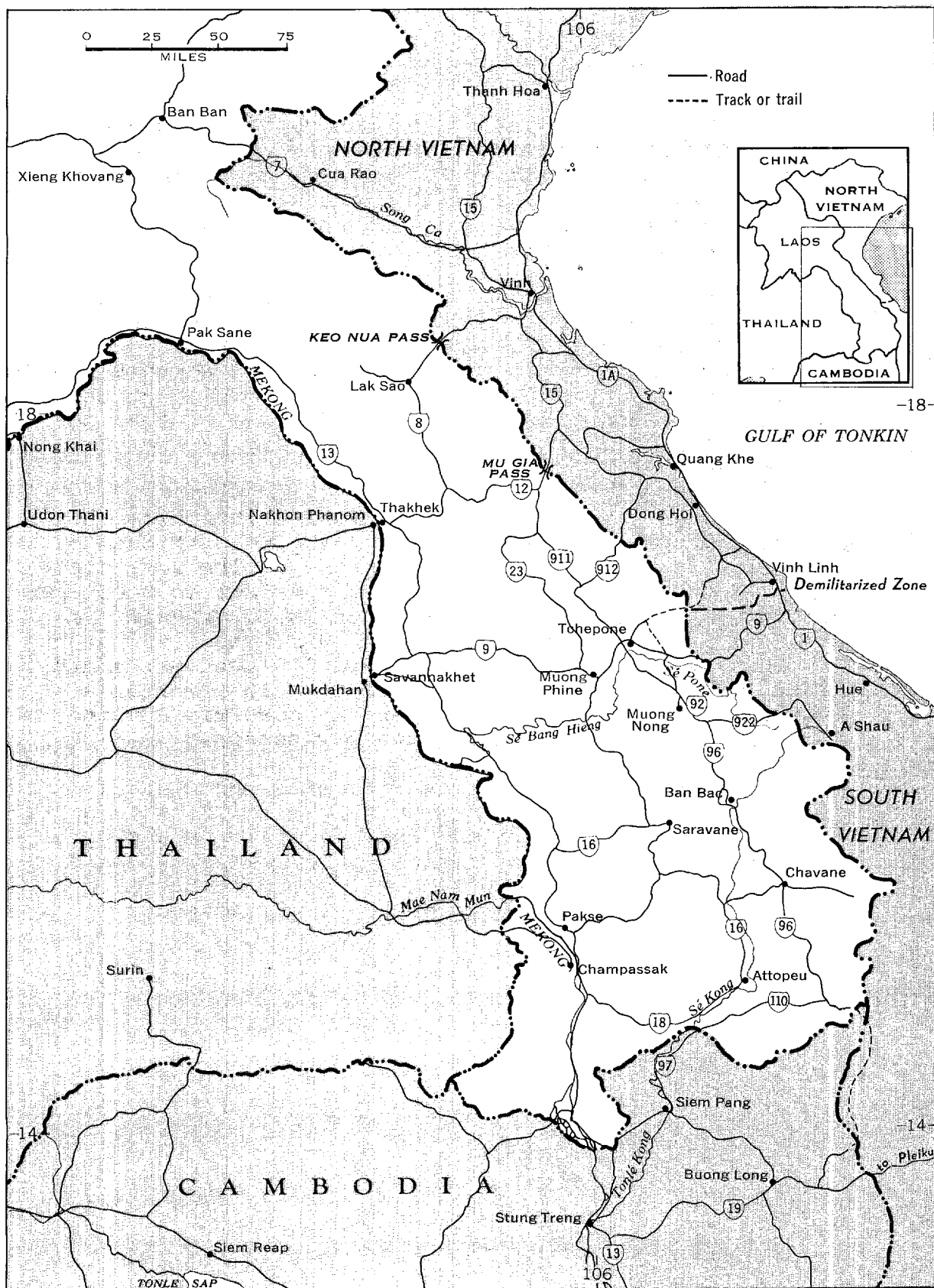
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V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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VI. OTHER MAJOR ASPECTS

1. Communist trucking through Mu Gia Pass and farther south in the Laos panhandle has fallen off during the past three weeks with the arrival of the rainy season. Intense work is still under way, however, to keep key sections of the Laos panhandle roadnet open for as long as possible.

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2. [redacted] about five trucks per day moved south in the Mu Gia Pass area as compared with about 25 per day during the previous three weeks. [redacted]

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[redacted] truck traffic moving southward had declined from an average of three or four per day in mid-May to only one or two per day during the past three weeks.

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3. Intensive maintenance efforts, including the use of explosives, have been necessary to continue to move traffic south through Mu Gia Pass. The Communists are apparently also making a special effort to keep open Route 922 into the A Chau Valley in South Vietnam. [redacted]

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[redacted] indicates that the enemy will attempt to move some 200 tons per month during the rainy season, a figure that is compatible with the two to three trucks per day observed moving eastward on this road during the dry season.

4. Accumulated evidence indicates that this year the Communists have made more extensive efforts than in any previous year to prolong the use of roads during the rainy season. It is unlikely, however, that more than a small number of trucks will be operated in the panhandle during the height of the rainy season.

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